



## The United States Antarctic Program



Without interruption since 1956, Americans have been studying the Antarctic and its interactions with the rest of the planet. These investigators and supporting personnel make up the U.S. Antarctic Program, which carries forward the Nation's goals of supporting the **Antarctic Treaty**, fostering cooperative research with other nations, protecting the Antarctic environment, and developing measures to ensure only equitable and wise use of resources. The program comprises research by scientists selected from universities and other research institutions and operations and support by a contractor and other agencies of the U.S. Government. The National Science

Foundation (the U.S. Government agency that promotes the progress of science) funds and manages the program. Approximately, 3,000 Americans are involved each year.

The research has three goals: to understand the region and its ecosystems; to understand its effects on (and responses to) global processes such as climate; and to use the region as a platform to study the upper atmosphere and space. Antarctica's remoteness and extreme climate make field science more expensive than in most places. Research is done in the Antarctic only when it cannot be performed at more convenient locations.

The program has three year-round research stations – McMurdo Station (on Ross Island), Amundsen-Scott Station (at the geographic south pole), and Palmer Station (on Anvers Island). In summer (the period of extensive sunlight and comparative warmth that lasts roughly October through February) additional camps are established for glaciologists, earth scientists, biologists, and others. Large, ski-equipped LC-130 airplanes, which only the United States has, provide air logistics. Air National Guard crews operate these planes. Helicopters, flown by a contractor, provide close support for many research teams. Tracked or wheeled vehicles provide transport over land and snow; small boats are used in coastal areas.

There are few places on earth where there has never been a war, where the environment is fully protected, and where scientific research has priority. A natural reserve, devoted to peace and science, this cold continent encompasses 5.4 million square miles, an area larger than the U.S. and Mexico. More than 89% is covered by an ice sheet that averages 7,090 ft thick. Precipitation in the interior averages only a few inches per year, making Antarctica one of the world's great deserts. Yet it holds 90% of the world's ice and- approximately 70% of the world's fresh water.

The **ANTARCTIC TREATY** provides the legal framework for the region beyond. The 12 nations listed in the preamble signed the Treaty on 1 December 1959 at Washington, D.C. It entered into force on 23 June 1961; the 12 signatories became the original 12 consultative nations.



To mark the Antarctic 2010-11 season opening, the Christchurch City Council and Antarctica New Zealand hosted a function at the Christchurch Art Gallery on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. A special church service was held at the Christchurch Cathedral 26<sup>th</sup> September to mark the start of the Antarctic season, where the chalice was blessed before it travelled south to spend the summer in the Antarctic Chapel of the Snow. See also: **National Science Foundation – Polar Programs**

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Remarks on United States Foreign Policy** Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State at Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC, September 8, 2010.

**Remarks on the Future of U.S.-New Zealand Relations** by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell, at the *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*, Washington DC, Sept. 9, 2010.

**The Transformer** by Fred Kaplan. *Foreign Policy Magazine*. September/October, 2010.

Bob Gates never thought he'd be Barack Obama's defence secretary. Now, the most revolutionary Pentagon leader since Robert McNamara tells why he said yes, and what legacy he hopes to leave behind.

**Conflict Prevention: Principles, Policies and Practice** by Abiodun Williams et al. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. August 19, 2010.

On July 1, 2010, the U.S. Institute of Peace organized an all-day conference entitled "Preventing Violent Conflict: Principles, Policies, and Practice." The goals of this conference were to spotlight the importance of conflict prevention, to foster productive discussions between leading scholars and distinguished practitioners, and to identify priority areas for future work on conflict prevention by the Institute and the field at large.

**Drums of War: Israel and the "Axis of Resistance"** *International Crisis Group*, August 2, 2010.

Of all the explanations as to why calm has prevailed in the Israeli-Lebanese arena since the end of the 2006 war, the principal one also should be cause for greatest concern: fear among the parties that the next confrontation would be far more devastating and broader in scope. None of the most directly relevant actors – Israel, Hizbollah, Syria and Iran – relishes this prospect. But the political roots of the crisis remain unaddressed, the underlying dynamics are still explosive, and miscalculations cannot be ruled out.

**Whiter Al-Anbar Province?: Five Scenarios Through 2011** by James B. Bruce & Jeffrey Martini. *RAND*, July 30, 2010.

A discussion of likely scenarios for Iraq's al-Anbar Province over the course of the next three years.

**Afghanistan: U.S. Foreign Assistance** by Curt Tarnoff. *CRS*, August 12, 2010.

The U.S. program of assistance to Afghanistan is intended to stabilize and strengthen the Afghan economic, social, political, and security environment so as to blunt popular support for extremist forces in the region. Since 2001, nearly \$48 billion has been appropriated toward this effort. More than half of U.S. assistance—roughly 57%—has gone to the training and equipping of Afghan forces. The remainder has gone to development and humanitarian-related activities from infrastructure to private sector support, governance and democratization efforts, and counternarcotics programs.

**Afghanistan's National Security Forces** by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*. August 19, 2010.

The growth and strengthening of Afghanistan's domestic security forces is seen as key to an eventual U.S. exit, but some analysts caution that progress will remain slow.

**Informal Dispute Resolution in Afghanistan** by Noah Coburn & John Dempsey. *USIP*, August 2010.

The report discusses informal justice in Afghanistan and its relationship to state institutions. It draws on a series of pilot projects sponsored and overseen by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and on work by other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), international donors, the international military, etc.

**Real Change for Afghan Women's Rights: Opportunities and Challenges in the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections** by Nina Sudhakar and Scott Worden. *USIP*. August 2010.

The key issues that must be resolved to ensure Afghan women's continued political participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections on September 18, 2010 and beyond.

**The Distorted Lens of Islamophobia** by Sally Steenland. *Center for American Progress*. August 10, 2010.

Sally Steenland puts recent anti-Muslim ranting into perspective and encourages Americans to look at the religion based on reality, not distortion.

**2010 Arab Public Opinion Poll** by Shibley Yelhami. *University of Maryland and Zogby In.* August 5, 2010.

The poll surveyed 3,976 people in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates, during the period of June 29–July 20, 2010. Among the key poll findings are: A substantial change in the assessment of President Obama, both as president of the United States and of Obama personally, remarkably stable views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the prospects of its resolution, and a majority of the Arab public now see a nuclear-armed Iran as being better for the Middle East.

**Iraq in Focus** by Charles Allen. *Homeland Security Policy Institute*, August 30, 2010. 19p.

Experts answer such key questions as: What are the security implications of the transition; How can these implications be best managed?; and what's needed to achieve "success" in Iraq in the long run?

**Geopolitics and Energy in Iraq: Where Politics Rules** by Robert E. Ebel. *Center for Strategic & International Studies*. August 2010.

Addresses issues related to the March 7, 2010, Iraqi national election; the selection of a prime minister; and whether the promise of that election will be fulfilled. If a functioning government is not seated, will the country return to the sectarian conflicts that characterized its past? Senior Iraqi officials fear that the U.S. troop drawdown could well result in a power vacuum to be filled by insurgents.

**Turbulence in the Nile: Toward a Consensual and Sustainable Allocation of the Nile River Waters** by Mwangi S. Kimenyi et al. *Brookings*. August 11, 2010.

The Nile River is the lifeline for Egyptians, the very survival of Egyptians and the existence of both modern Egypt and the biblical Egypt of the Pharaohs are intractably tied to this critical and important resource. In fact, Egyptian political, economic, social and cultural life are so intertwined with the Nile that it is not an exaggeration to say that it would be difficult to envision a viable Egyptian civilization without the Nile.

**Jordan: A Refugee Haven** by Geraldine Chaelard. *Migration Policy Institute*, August 2010.

Migration to, from, and across Jordan, since the Palestinian exodus of 1948, has played a key role in the country's politics, economy, and society. These movements have several underlying, interacting patterns which are connected to regional geopolitics, the fluctuations of the oil economy in the Persian Gulf, and efforts by the kingdom's Hashemite monarchy to ensure its own stability. Jordan is a case in point for how various forms of mobility can have strong political and economic implications, both domestically and regionally.

**Defusing Lebanon's Powder Keg** by Mohamad Bazzi. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Aug 6, 2010.

Lebanon faces new sectarian violence, and tensions along its border with Israel threaten to boil over. To help avert conflict, Washington must eventually engage with the most powerful force in Lebanon: Hezbollah.

**The Kampala Aftermath: the U.S. Should Remain Wary of the ICC** by Brett D. Schaefer. *The Heritage Foundation*. August 9, 2010.

Overall, the U.S. effort at the International Criminal Court Review Conference in Kampala was a qualified success. While the conference adopted the Belgian amendment, creating a precedent for criminalizing the use of additional weapons as war crimes under the Rome Statute, the U.S. did succeed in minimizing the immediate risks to U.S. interests and nationals. Critically, the U.S. was successful in persuading the states parties to restrict the ICC's jurisdiction over aggression in several significant ways that should help protect U.S. interests.

**Al-Shabaab** by Stephaine Hanson. *Council on Foreign Relations*. July 28, 2010.

A profile of the Islamist militant organization based in southern Somalia.

**Power Game in Asia Trips Nuclear Non-Proliferation** by Harsh V. Pant. *YaleGlobal*, August, 2010.

The aim of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and eventually eliminate them altogether. The goal has been elusive as other nations seek and succeed in acquiring the

technology. While the treaty allows for civilian use of nuclear technology, special deals signed for national strategic reasons weaken the treaty as a whole. Many deals, instigated by the U.S. and China, escalate regional mistrust and rivalries, particularly between India and Pakistan, explains the author. While China plans to assist Pakistan's nuclear program, even Japan, a long-time critic of proliferation, may now aid India's nuclear program as a balancing act. Spreading civilian technology today without adequate long-term safeguards on export threatens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and does nothing to secure the globe.

**Avoiding a Tempers in the South China Sea** by Joshua Kurlantzick. *Council on Foreign Relations*, September 2, 2010.

Since the end of the Asian financial crisis, China has drastically expanded its international presence, including in Latin America, Africa, and Central Asia. But China's rising global power has been felt first in Southeast Asia, a region seen by some Chinese strategists as equivalent to Latin America in the U.S. Monroe Doctrine.

**Will China Rule the World?** by Douglas H. Paal. *CEIP*, September 2, 2010.

Rising domestic concerns in China over the increasing pressure of public opinion, the succession of the country's leadership, and fundamental economic imbalances may have a growing effect on Beijing's foreign policy.

**U.S.-China Military Contacts: Issues for Congress** by Shirley A. Kan. *CRS*, July 2010.

Kan looks at policy issues regarding military-to-military (mil-to-mil) contacts with the *People's Republic of China (PRC)* and a record of major contacts and crises since 1993. Improvements and deteriorations in overall bilateral relations have affected military contacts, which were close in 1997-1998 and 2000, but marred by the 1995-1996 Taiwan Strait crisis, mistaken NATO bombing of a PRC embassy in 1999, the EP-3 aircraft collision crisis in 2001, and aggressive naval confrontations (including in 2009).

**Chinese Energy Security: the Myth of the Plan's Frontline Status** by Ryan Clarke. *Strategic Studies Institute*. August 17, 2010.

Clarke examines the dynamics of China's energy security dilemma and the role of the *People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN)*, along with the future role in regional security. He argues that it is domestic market inefficiencies and poor management practices that pose the greatest threat to China's energy security. And fewer Chinese energy imports are making their way to the country by sea, so that the PLAN actually has a minimal role to play. Given these realities, Chinese fears of a naval blockade that deprives it of energy supplies, and American confidence that this is a realistic strategic option in the event of hostilities are implausible.

**A New Hope for Human Rights in North Korea?** by Carl Gershman. *National Endowment for Democracy*. August 21, 2010.

The brief focuses on North Korean human rights and refugees.

**Fact Sheet: New Executive Order Targeting Proliferation and Other Illicit Activities Related To North Korea** *U.S. Department of Treasury*, August 30, 2010.

The Order targets the government of North Korea's continued involvement in a wide range of proliferation and other illicit activities in defiance of *UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs)* 1718 and 1874 and other illicit activities in defiance of international norms.

**Korea's Green Growth Strategy: Mitigating Climate Change and Developing New Growth Engines** by Randall S. Jones and Byungseo Yoo. *OECD*. July 28, 2010.

Korea's greenhouse gas emissions almost doubled between 1990 and 2005, the highest growth rate in the *OECD*.

**Maoist Insurgency Trips up Rising India** by Eric Randolph. *YaleGlobal*. July 29, 2010.

Enjoying rapid growth, India looks to make use of rich mineral holdings in its eastern states. But the rural poor and tribal people living near these deposits have been deprived of their rights and are often oppressed by corrupt officials in cahoots with developers. Though the insurgents don't intentionally seek a global audience, escalating conflict unnerves wealthy investors abroad and rouses sympathy from human-rights groups.

**Building a More Resilient Haitian State** by Keith Crane et al. *RAND*. August 13, 2010.

Haiti's future prosperity and peace require building a more effective, resilient state. The report sifts through Haiti's many challenges and reform plans to identify the state-building priorities that are most necessary, feasible, and sustainable. **Monograph** Note: 209p. **Research Brief** 3p.

**Some resources which may be of interest:**

**Obama's Middle East Problem** Pew Global Attitudes Project, August 27, 2010 (results of survey of public in 22 countries on President Obama's performance on a range of foreign policy issues).

**U.N. Resolutions - the Middle East** by Christopher Tatlock. *CFR*, August 24'10.

**Staying Power: The U.S. Mission in Afghanistan beyond 2011** by Michael E. O'Hanlon. *Brookings*, September 2010.

**The Failed States Index 2010** *Foreign Policy*, July-August 2010.

**First Plenary Session the United States and China: Visions of Global Order** Address by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg, at a conference in Geneva, September 11, 2010.

**The United States-India Innovation Exchange** *U.S. Dept of State*, September 13, 2010

**A Discussion on the New START Treaty** U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller et al. at Georgetown University, September 13, 2010.

**Nuclear Terrorism: Strengthening Our Domestic Defenses, Part II** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, September 15, 2010.

**Can Governments Prevent Terrorism While Also Respecting Human Rights, or Must Authorities Trade Off Some Human Rights to Reduce Terrorism?** *American Political Science Association*, August 2010 (announcing research appearing in July 2010 issue of *PS: Political Science and Politics*).

**The Point of No Return** by Jeffrey Goldberg in *The Atlantic*, September 2010 (re Iran's nuclear program).

**The National Guard: A Great Value for America** by General Craig R. McKinley, *National Guard Bureau*, July 2010. 16p.

**Earthquakes and Floods: Comparing Haiti and Pakistan** by Elizabeth Ferris. *Brookings*, August 26, 2010. 17p.

**Public Health Preparedness for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Weapons** *RAND*, September 2010. 25p. **Summary**

**Cyberspace and National Security** Bibliography, *Muir Fairchild Research Information Center*, September, 2010.

## **POLITICS / ELECTIONS**

**Four Years Later: Republicans Faring Better with Men, Whites, Independents and Seniors** *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, August 10, 2010.

The Republican Party's prospects for the midterm elections look much better than they did four years ago at this time, while the Democrats' look much worse. Voter preferences for the upcoming congressional elections remain closely divided (45% support the Democratic candidate or lean Democratic, while 44% favor the Republican or lean Republican). In polling conducted in August-September 2006, the Democrats held an 11-point advantage (50% to 39%). Major shifts in sentiment among key voting blocs account for the improved GOP standing in 2010. The Republicans now enjoy advantages among typically loyal voting blocs that wavered in 2006, notably men and whites, says the report.



**Muslims Give Obama Highest Job Approval: Mormons, Lowest** *Gallup*, August 27, 2010.

**How We're Doing Ahead of the November Elections** by Darrell M. West & William J. Antholis. *Brookings*, August 22, 2010 (findings of five indexes including "a Composite Index of Global and National Trends").

**Foreign Policy Sidelined in Midterms** Interview with James M. Lindsay, *CFR*, September 15, 2010.

## **TRADE / ECONOMY**

**Putting Public Debt in Context: Historical and International Comparisons** by Josh Bivens & Anna Turner. *Economic Policy Institute*. August 3, 2010.

In the midst of the most severe recession since the Great Depression, large increases in the federal budget deficit were inevitable and remain necessary to address the jobs crisis.

**How Should Oil Exporters Spend Their Rents?** by Alan Gelb. *Center for Global Development*, August 10, 2010.

The paper argues for approaches that increase public understanding of the need for prudent spending of oil revenues in booms, and for comprehensive consideration of a range of options for using rents. Drawing on the experience of a few successful countries, it points to a number of common factors.

**What are the Long-Term Economic Costs of Psychological Problems During Childhood?** *RAND*, July 28, 2010.

The report examines the lifetime economic damages caused by childhood psychological problems.

**The European Union's Response to the 2007-2009 Financial Crisis** by Walter W. Eubanks. *CRS*, August 13, 2010. 23p.

The response of the *European Union (EU)* to the 2007-2009 financial crisis and the regulatory changes the EU has made or is planning to make.

**Assault in America: a Decade of Petroleum Company Disaster, Pollution, and Profit** by Tony Iallorardo. *National Wildlife Federation*. July 29, 2010.

The report catalogs a decade of serious oil spills, fires, leaks and loss of life over the last decade. From 2000 to 2010, the oil and gas industry accounted for hundreds of deaths, explosions, fires, seeps, and spills as well as habitat and wildlife destruction in the United States. These disasters demonstrate that the BP incident is not merely an accident but an industry pattern that places profit ahead of communities, local economies, and the environment.

**Gainful Employment Brings More Gainful Education** by Louis Soares. *Center for American Progress*. August 9, 2010.

Gainful employment rule pushes the Education Department into a new role, using network orchestration to improve quality and value in higher education.

**The Other Half: Unmarried Women, Economic Well-Being, and the Great Recession** by Liz Weiss & Page S. Garner. *Center for American Progress*. July 30, 2010.

Improving the economic situation of unmarried women will help the national economy overall. The authors suggest that policymakers focus on policies that will increase unmarried women's wages and spending potential, reduce their debt and increase their wealth, and improve the lives and futures of their children.

**Peaks, Spikes, and Barrels: Modeling Sharp Movements in Oil Prices** by Alun Thomas et al. *International Monetary Fund*. August 2010. 18p.

Global oil markets were roiled by sharp price swings in 2008, and economists are still divided over the reasons for the unusual volatility. Those emphasizing fundamentals point to inelastic supply and demand curves, while others view the phenomenon mostly as a result of financial investors flocking to commodity markets. The authors look at the strength of these competing hypotheses.

**Financing the U.S. Trade Deficit** by James K. Jackson. *CRS*, June 22, 2010.

The U.S. merchandise trade deficit is a part of the overall U.S. balance of payments, a summary statement of all economic transactions between the residents of the United States and the rest of the world, during a given period of time. Jackson provides an overview of the U.S. balance of payments, an explanation of the broader role of capital flows in the U.S. economy, an explanation of how the country finances its trade deficit or a trade surplus, and the implications for Congress and the country of the large inflows of capital from abroad.

**Foreign Investment in U.S. Securities** by James K. Jackson. *CRS*, June 22, 2010.

Foreign capital inflows are playing an important role in the U.S. economy by bridging the gap between domestic supplies of and demand for capital. In 2008, as the financial crisis and global economic downturn unfolded, foreign investors looked to U.S. Treasury securities as a “safe haven” investment. In 2009, foreign capital inflows continued to drop as private investors sharply retrenched, while official purchases of U.S. Treasury securities by foreign governments rose sharply. Foreign investors now hold more than 50% of the publicly held and traded U.S. Treasury securities. The large foreign accumulation of U.S. securities has spurred some observers to argue that this large foreign presence in U.S. financial markets increases the risk of a financial crisis, whether as a result of the uncoordinated actions of market participants or by a coordinated withdrawal from U.S. financial markets by foreign investors for economic or political reasons.

***Some Trade/Economics resources which may be of interest:***

**Causes of the Recent Financial and Economic Crisis** Statement by U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben S. Bernanke to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, September 2, 2010.

**Monetary Policy Going Forward** Speech by Richard W. Fisher, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, September 1, 2010.

**CEO Pay and the Great Recession: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Executive Compensation Survey** *Institute for Policy Studies*, September 1, 2010. 36p.

**Time to Sort out the Long Overdue Doha Round: A Solution to the Global Economic Slowdown is in Plain Sight** by Hugh Corbet. *YaleGlobal*, August 26, 2010.

## **ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY**

**What Does it Take to Help Families Move to Better Neighborhoods?** by Mary Cunningham. *Urban Institute*. August 4, 2010.

Research shows that helping low-income families move to neighborhoods that are rich in opportunity - places with safe streets, high-performing schools, supermarkets, parks, and proximity to jobs - can vastly improve their lives.

**State Department Releases Fifth Annual Water for the Poor Report** *U.S. Department of State*, August 16, 2010.

U.S. efforts to expand access to safe drinking water and sanitation improve water resources management and increase water productivity in developing countries.

**Are we Ready for the Big One? Texas Gulf Legislators Learn from Cuba's Hurricane Preparedness Model** by Elizabeth Newhouse & Wayne Smith. *Center for International Policy*. July 2010.

There is a concern about the catastrophic effect of a hurricane on the giant oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and on earthquake-shattered Haiti. In May, Wayne Smith led a delegation of four Texas Gulf Coast state legislators, whose districts include Houston, Galveston, and Brownsville, some of the state's most hurricane-vulnerable, to examine Cuba's hurricane preparedness and discuss ways to cooperate. Texas has an excellent early-warning system and a new and sophisticated Hurricane Response Plan. Compared to Cuba's plan, the Texan plan focuses more on managing evacuations and their aftermath, and less on working from the ground up to prepare communities.

**Management and Effects of Coal-Bed Methane Produced Water in the United States**. *National Research Council*. August 2010.

Effective management of water produced from coalbed methane wells in some western U.S. basins is limited by complications in the regulatory framework, not because of water quality, says this new congressionally mandated report that examines management of water extracted from coalbed methane basins in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

**Wheat Supplies and Food Fears** by Laurie A. Garrett. *Council on Foreign Relations*. August 9, 2010.

Concerns about global wheat supplies are sparking fears that price inflation in the wheat market could lead to a food crisis akin to the one in 2008, says the author.

**Taxes, Permits, and Climate Change** by Louis Kaplow. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, August'10.

Kaplow revisits the question of instrument choice for the regulation of externalities in the context of climate change.

**Global Warming "Undeniable," U.S. Government Report Says** by Christine Dell'Amore in *National Geographic News*, July 28, 2010.

An in-depth analysis of ten climate indicators all point to a marked warming over the past three decades, with the most recent decade being the hottest on record, according to the latest of the U.S. National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration's annual "State of the Climate" reports.

**Expanding the Palette** by John Grossmann in *National Parks*, Summer 2010.

The U.S. National Parks are becoming more diverse in staff and in visitors, with the help of outreach programs aimed at urban-dwelling minority groups who often have limited exposure to national parks not only for economic reasons.

### ***Some environmental resources which may be of interest:***

**Gulf of Mexico Fact Sheet** *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, September 3, 2010

**Remarks by Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change** at the Geneva Dialogue on Climate Finance, September 3, 2010

**Climate Change Partnerships**. *eJournal USA*, August 2010. To download **individual articles** *eJournal USA* is an electronic journal of the *U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs*.

**Efficiency Works: Creating Good Jobs and New Markets through Energy Efficiency** *Center for American Progress*, September 2010. 56p.

**Hurricane Katrina: Are We Better Prepared Five Years Later?** by Wanda Edwards & Candace J. Iskowitz. *Institute for Business & Home Safety*, August 2010.

## **SOCIETY**

**Unauthorized Immigrants and Their U.S.-Born Children** by Jeffrey S. Passel. *Pew Hispanic Center*. August 11, 2010.

An estimated 340,000 of the 4.3 million babies born in the United States in 2008 were the offspring of unauthorized immigrants, according to the analysis. It finds that nearly four-in-five (79%) of the 5.1 million children (younger than age 18) of unauthorized immigrants were born in the U.S. and so they are U.S. citizens. In total, 4 million U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrant parents resided in the U.S. in 2009, alongside 1.1 million foreign-born children of unauthorized immigrant parents.

**Connected Through Service: Diaspora Volunteers and Global Development** by Aaron Terrazas. *U.S.A.I.D and Migration Policy Institute*. August 2010.

Nearly 1 million U.S. residents spend time volunteering abroad each year, including nearly 200,000 first- and second-generation immigrants. The report examines the role of diaspora in development policy, explaining that they often have the connections, knowledge, and personal drive to volunteer outside the framework of organized volunteer programs. As skilled migration and the number of U.S. youth with ancestors in the



developing world grow, the potential for both skilled diaspora volunteers and youth diaspora volunteers will increase.

**The Global Health Regime** *Council on Foreign Relations*. August 11, 2010.

A broad-sweeping look at international efforts to improve public health. This is part of the Global Governance Monitor, an interactive feature tracking multilateral approaches to several global challenges.

**Pension Insurance Data Book 2009** *Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation*, August 20, 2010.

The data book offers information on statistical trends related to defined benefit retirement plans in the private sector. This new edition features a detailed article on the smaller of the agency's two pension insurance programs, which provides financial assistance to insolvent multiemployer pension plans.

**Assessing Decision-Making on the NYC Islamic Center: Continuing our Tradition of Religious Liberty** by Melissa Rogers. *Brookings Institution*. August 4, 2010.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission announced that it will not designate the building at 45-51 Park Place in lower Manhattan as an historic landmark. The building, which is two blocks north of Ground Zero, does not have the architectural or historic significance to merit such a designation, the Commission unanimously said. While a decision like this normally would not draw national attention, this one already has because it essentially clears the way for the owners of the property to tear down the existing structure and build an Islamic Center there. This decision is one of several in which New York City officials have taken care to treat the planned Islamic Center the same way they would treat plans for a YMCA or Jewish community center in this space. In so doing, these officials have honored core dictates of religious freedom.

**Extending U.S. Medicare to Mexico: Why it's Important to Consider and What Can be Done** by Marla C. Haims & Andrew W. Dick. *RAND*, July 22, 2010.

There is a lack of hard data on the exact number of Medicare-eligible retirees residing in Mexico, but it is at least in the tens of thousands and is certainly rising as the baby boom generation reaches retirement. Because Medicare does not cover health services received outside the United States, these retirees must travel to the United States for health care or purchase alternative coverage for health services received in Mexico. There are several arguments for extending Medicare to Mexico — that is, allowing Medicare-eligible beneficiaries to receive their Medicare benefits in Mexico.

**Messy Politics of Donor Support for HIV** by Laurie A. Garrett. *CFR*, August 4, 2010.

Global donor support for the fight against HIV has flat-lined, while the total cost of treatment continues to rise. According to United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in 2009 the combined G8 donors' disbursements for HIV were \$7.6 billion, compared to the 2008 level of \$7.7 billion.

**The Importance of Segregation, Discrimination, Peer Dynamics, and Identity in Explaining Trends in the Racial Achievement Gap** by Roland G. Fryer, Jr. *NBER*, August 2010.

After decades of narrowing, the achievement gap between black and white school children widened in the 1990s, a period when the labor market rewards for education were increasing. This presents an important puzzle for economists. Fryer investigates the extent to which economic models of segregation, information-based discrimination, peer dynamics, and identity can explain this puzzle.

**Who are America's Poor Children? Examining Food Insecurity Among Children in the United States** by Vanessa P. Wright et al. *National Center for Children in Poverty*. August 2010.

Fourteen million children live in poor families, that is, families with income below the federal poverty level, which is \$22,050 a year for a family of four in 2009. There is a wide body of research documenting the importance of family income for children's health and well-being. Yet, research suggests that families with income twice the poverty threshold experience as many material hardships as poor families, such as food insecurity, inadequate housing, and insufficient health care. These findings are alarming and underscore the degree to which income-based measures of impoverishment mask experiences with material deprivation that are widespread and transcend the standard thresholds that define poverty.

## HEALTH

**Vital Signs: State-Specific Obesity Prevalence Among Adults – United States, 2009.** *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.* August 3, 2010.

Obesity is a costly condition that can reduce quality of life and increases the risk for many serious chronic diseases and premature death. The U.S. Surgeon General issued the Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity in 2001, and in 2007, no state had met the Healthy People 2010 objective to reduce obesity prevalence among adults to 15%. Overall self-reported obesity prevalence in the U.S. was 26.7%. Non-Hispanic blacks (36.8%), Hispanics (30.7%), those who did not graduate from high school (32.9%), and persons aged 50--59 years (31.1%) and 60--69 years (30.9%) were disproportionally affected. By state, obesity prevalence ranged from 18.6% in Colorado to 34.4% in Mississippi; only Colorado and the District of Columbia (19.7%) had prevalence of <20%; nine states had prevalence of ≥30%.

**Health Care Spending: 1998, 2003, 2008.** *Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.* August 2010.

How have rising health care costs affected household budgets? That question was raised many times before the passage of the *Affordable Care Act*, whose goal is to make health care more affordable for American families. This analysis of *Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE)* data from the 1998, 2003, and 2008 Interview Surveys provides a picture of nominal out-of-pocket health care spending among households categorized by the age of the reference person.

## EDUCATION

**Education and Conflict in Haiti: Rebuilding the Education Sector After the 2010 Earthquake** by Ketty Luzincourt & Jennifer Gulbrandson. *USIP*, August 2010.

The massive earthquake of January 2010 devastated almost every aspect of Haitian society, but it also presented an excellent opportunity to address the problems of the largely dysfunctional education sector.

**False Impression: How a Widely Cited Study Vastly Overstates the Benefits of Charter Schools** by Marco Basile. *The Century Foundation and Economic Policy Institute.* August 9, 2010.

The study reviews a critical analysis of one study that appears to show remarkable results of charter school education, and points to other studies that would call into question the broad claims of success by charter school advocates.

**Early Education Programs and Children of Immigrants: Learning Each Other's Language** by Hannah Matthews & Danielle Ewen. *Urban Institute*, August 31, 2010. 22p.

Children from immigrant families are the fastest growing group of children in the United States. High-quality child care and early education opportunities will be critical to these children's success in school and in life. Yet, the early experiences of children in immigrant families are as diverse and varied as immigrant families themselves. The authors discuss state and local solutions to improving access for immigrant families and specific strategies and collaborations among providers, policymakers, and immigrant-serving organizations.

## BUSINESS

**The State of the American Worker 2010: Attitudes About Work in America** by Karlyn Bowman. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.* August 31, 2010. 53p.

A review of attitudes about jobs and work.

**Most "Re-employed" Workers Say They Are Overqualified for Their New Job** *Pew Research Center*, September 2, 2010. 10p.

The Great Recession has been a financial and emotional roller coaster ride for the re-employed.

**How Metropolitan Areas Can Help the United States Become an Export Nation** by Bruce Katz et al. *Brookings*, July 30, 2010.

The U.S. national debate on export policies tends to focus exclusively on exchange rates and trade agreements. The authors call upon federal leaders to also consider what exporting regions need in order to succeed. This involves rationalizing infrastructure spending, boosting innovation, and studying the efforts of the most successful metropolitan area exporters, such as Wichita, Kansas and Portland, Oregon.

### ***Some resources which may be of interest:***

**Where the Jobs Are: A First Look at Private Industry Job Growth and Wages in 2010** *National Employment Law Project*, August 27, 2010. 16p.

**Expansion of E-Mentor Corps** *U.S. Dept of State*, August 30, 2010.

The E-Mentor Corps is a web-based platform to match mentors in the U.S. business community with aspiring entrepreneurs from developing countries around the world.

**Talent Pressures and the Aging Workforce: Responsive Action Steps for the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services Sector** *Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College*, July 2010. 51p.

**Hard Work? Patterns in Physically Demanding Labor Among Older Workers** by Hye Jin Rho. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*, August 2010. 19p. **Summary**

## **MEDIA**

**Americans Spend More Time Watching the News: Ideological News Sources: Who Watches and Why** *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, September 12, 2010.

**100 Days of Gushing Oil: Eight Things to Know about How the Media Covered the Gulf Disaster** *Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism*, August 25, 2010. 23p.

**Advancing New Media Research** *U.S. Institute of Peace*, September 2010. 8p.

## **SCIENCE**

**New Technologies, Future Weapons: Gene Sequencing and Synthetic Biology** by Ethel Machi & Jena Baker McNeill. *The Heritage Foundation*. August 24, 2010.

Since the completion of the human genome project in 2003, there has been a surge of investment and discovery in both the gene sequencing and synthetic biology sectors of biotechnology. While the information contained in genome databases is not inherently dangerous, it can be used for destructive purposes. With synthesis technology becoming less expensive, more accurate, and faster every year, it is foreseeable that by 2020 malefactors will have the ability to manipulate genomes in order to engineer new bioterrorism weapons. The authors discuss the possibilities.

## **COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Net Neutrality or Internet Toll Booths?** *Brookings* – video

Google and Verizon recently announced a “legislative framework” for Internet regulation that some critics say could put an end to net neutrality, or the openness of the Internet, by creating a two-tiered data system. Senior Fellow Darrell West takes a look at net neutrality and the Google-Verizon plan.

**The Latino Digital Divide: the Native Born Versus the Foreign Born** by Gretchen Livingston. *Pew Hispanic Center*. July 28, 2010.

Technology use among foreign-born Latinos continues to lag significantly behind that of their U.S.-born counterparts. The nativity differences are especially pronounced when it comes to internet use. While 85% of native-born Latinos ages 16 and older go online, only about half (51%) of foreign-born Latinos do so. When it comes to cell phones, 80% of native-born Latinos use one, compared with 72% of the foreign born.

### **Some resources which may be of interest:**

**Internet Governance in an Age of Cyber Insecurity** by Robert K. Knake. *Council on Foreign Relations*, September 2010. 48p.

**Older Adults and Social Media** by Mary Madden. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, August 27'10. 13p.

**Critical Infrastructure Protection: Key Private and Public Cyber Expectations Need to Be Consistently Addressed** *U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)*, July 2010.

**Cell Phones and American Adults** by Amanda Lenhart. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, September 2, 2010. 42p.

Adults make just as many calls, but text less often than teens. Americans say their mobile phones make them feel safer and more connected, but are irritated by cell intrusions and rudeness by other users.

### **THE ARTS & CULTURE**

**Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts** by Kevin F. McCarthy et al. *RAND*, 2005.

During the past decade, arts advocates have relied on an instrumental approach to the benefits of the arts. This report evaluates these arguments and asserts that a new approach is needed – it should offer a more comprehensive view of how the arts create private and public value, underscore the importance of the arts' intrinsic benefits, and link the creation of benefits to arts involvement.

**Improving Arts Education is Key to Stemming Audience Decline** by Laura Zakaras. *RAND*, 2010.

Policymakers have underestimated the critical role of arts learning in supporting a vibrant nonprofit cultural sector. And despite decades of effort to make high-quality works of art available to Americans, Zakaras says demand for the arts has failed to keep pace with supply. Audiences for classical music, jazz, opera, theater and the visual arts have all declined, and public funding has focused on building supply and expanding arts access, while it has neglected cultivation of the (especially young) audiences capable of appreciating the arts.

**Partnerships for Parks** by Chris Walker. *Wallace Foundation*, April 1999.

Public-private partnerships for parks are proliferating across the country, helping to create new and refurbished parks, greenways, trails and other community assets - often in the face of municipal budget constraints. This report, based on lessons from Wallace's Urban Parks Initiative, offers guidance to practitioners, managers and innovators in the parks field in planning, developing and assessing partnerships between public agencies and nonprofit organizations to build, renovate and operate urban parks.

**The Rise of Islamic Rap: on the Streets of Britain, Hip Hop Jabs at Muslim Politics** by Peter Mandaville. *YaleGlobal*. August 19, 2010.

Some South Asian Muslim youth in British cities, seeking art and music that reflect their own alienation, embrace the hip-hop and rap of urban black America. Styles and messages converge, as young Muslim teens blend cultural and political expression with their Islamic faith, explains the author. Islamic fundamentalists warn against any music at all, let alone provocative hip-hop. Budding interest in alternative, radical music could be a fad – or signal yet a new alliance between Muslim and leftist social-justice values. There's power in demographics: Some 70% of the world's Muslim population is under the age of 30 – and they could eventually transform mainstream Islam, including the religion's goals, activism and reputation.

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